

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, AS
SUBJECT: PARKINSON AIDE MEMOIRE TO SECSTATE-DESIGNATE VANCE

1. THE MISSION WAS PUZZLED BY LOCAL PRESS REPORTS EARLY THIS WEEK PURPORTEDLY BASED ON THE AIDE MEMOIRE PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PARKINSON TO SECSTATE-DESIGNATE VANCE. NEWS ACCOUNTS FROM FOUR MAJOR DAILIES, ALL WITH RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS IN THE U.S., REPORTED SEVERAL CRITICISMS OF U.S.-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS NOT REFLECTED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE. SOURCES HERE INDICATE PARKINSON HELD A RESTRICTED PRESS CONFERENCE FOR AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS AND THE REPORTS PUBLISHED HERE ARE BASED ON THAT MEETING.

2. AMONG THE "GRIEVANCES" CARRIED IN THE LOCAL PRESS WERE THE CHARGE THAT "AMERICA HAD TAKEN ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL TO AUSTRALIA'S INTEREST WITHOUT CONSULTING AUSTRALIA. MANY OF THESE DECISIONS WERE IN THE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIELD." SPECIFICS INCLUDED MEAT EXPORT; DEFENSE SALES, PARTICULARLY OFF-SET PRODUCTION; AND CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF ARMS SALES WHICH DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AUSTRALIA AS AN ANZUS ALLY WHILE A SIMILAR PROVISION IS NOT IMPOSED UPON NATO ALLIES. REPORTS ALSO INDICATED PARKINSON SAID GOA HAD BEEN "PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY

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CHIVVYING (NEEDLING)THE UNITED STATES ON CHINA AND VIETNAM." PARKINSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAD BEEN URGING A MORE ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD CHINA, SEEKING TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE 1972 SHANGHAI AGREEMENT. ON VIETNAM, PARKINSON REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE AMERICAN NON-RECOGNITION POLICY TOWARD THE REGIME "MIGHT BECOME A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. IF YOU TREAT THEM

LIKE PARIAHS, THEY WILL BEHAVE LIKE PARIAHS." HOWEVER, PARKINSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING AUSTRALIA HAD NO RPT NO DIFFICULTY IN THE PAST YEAR MAKING ITS DIFFERENCES AND DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS KNOWN TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE MARKED SIMILARITIES IN ALL STORIES, MANY WITH IDENTICAL QUOTES, LEADING US TO BELIEVE THE STORIES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE. AFTER READING THE AIDE MEMOIRE, WE ARE UNABLE TO DRAW THE SAME CONCLUSION AS REPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS, AND CAN ONLY ASSUME PARKINSON WENT BEYOND HIS BRIEF IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FOR REASONS UNCLEAR TO US. HARGROVE

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